

Miles Mayhew - ECA Update Process

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Subject: ECA Update Process

Miles,

A few items of concern:

Develop history of past experiences and begin to determine measures of success / failures. Example: Alki Landslide Project displaced wildlife habitat for a number of species. Record recovery process.

Review effect of surrounding development in existing riparian and drainage areas - Example: undefined drainage plan surrounding Schmitz Creek Park boundaries are destabilizing vegetation and forest canopy. Consideration should be given to slope and value of local ecosystem.

ECA Identification - begin to develop educational signage for the public and notification process to existing ownership surrounding ECA areas. Develop guidelines of current responsibility and resources for City approved BAS practices. Publish local successful buffer restoration efforts describing critical physical characterization, "fit" within known ecosystem and effectiveness of indigenous plantings. Locally publish violation fines.

Work with SPU's comprehensive plan to begin to separate ECA water drainage from CSO's. For areas close to natural water bodies, this would not only relieve the burden on existing CSO's but also provide less costly ways of guaranteeing the purity of recharging sources. Example 1: Recent Alki Landslide Project overwhelmed existing drainage systems causing costly repairs. Bringing outflows directly to Elliot Bay would have benefited the recharge of local nearshore habitat (note: preexisting outflows previously visited by otters are now dry). Example 2: Duwamish Greenbelt (especially near Fairmount Ravine), Schmitz Creek and Mee Kwa Mooks Parks have drainage sources that can enhance nearshore habitat.

Work with SPU's comprehensive plan to determine areas of commonality. Public comment process can skew prioritization process simply by responding to the latest collective disaster. Understanding if water or environmental quality are better measures of long term success.

Thank you for conducting a well focused meeting last Wednesday.

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